

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02

AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 005654

R 211300Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USCINCNAVEUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6267

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

JCS WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR EAID BEXP EG

SUBJ: SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE

REF: CINCNAVEUR O 201246Z APR 74 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE MINDFUL OF DESIRABILITY CONCLUDING SOFA AGREE-
MENT WITHOUT DELAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING
FEASIBLE PURSUANT WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO ACHIEVE
THIS. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON SOFA REPORTED CAIRO 2444.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT HANDLING OF SOFA AS A WHOLE OR BY
BREAKING OUT LIABILITY AND JURISDICTIONAL ASPECTS WILL
REQUIRE IDENTICAL APPROVAL AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL
HERE. HENCE, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAVE FOREIGN MINISTER'S
REACTION TO OUR NOTE AND TO LEGAL ADVISOR'S RECOMMENDA-
TIONS THEREON, NO USEFUL PURPOSE IS SERVED
BY OUR INITIATING NEW PROPOSALS TO BREAK AGREEMENT INTO
SEPARATE SEGMENTS.

2. GOE HAS IN PAST TWO DAYS BEEN TOLD OF ACCELERATED
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OPSSCHED FOR IWO JIMA ARRIVAL AND MINE CLEARANCE

OPERATIONS. ALL OUR CONTACTS IN MFA, SCA AND MINISTRY OF WAR ACCEPT OUR VIEW APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED EXPEDITIOUSLY. BELIEVE WE CAN COUNT UPON THEM TO SEEK TO FACILITATE MATTER CONSISTENT WITH COMPLEXITIES OF AGREEMENT WE HAVE PRESENTED AND EGYPTIAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES.

3. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION IN OUR MINDS THAT SOFA AGREEMENT NEEDED ASAP, WE MUST ALSO POINT OUT THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE WARMLY WELCOMED ADVANCE NIMBUS STAR PERSONNEL AND GIVEN ALL COOPERATION CONSISTENT WITH LIMITED GOE CAPABILITIES. THERE IS GREAT GOODWILL TOWARDS US AND WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. EGYPTIANS DO NOT WANT AN INCIDENT INVOLVING NIMBUS STAR PERSONNEL ANY MORE THAN WE DO. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT EGYPTIANS WILL COOPERATE IN PRAGMATICALLY HANDLING ANY PROBLEMS INVOLVING USG PERSONNEL THAT MAY ARISE EVEN PRIOR TO ACTUAL FINALIZATION OF AGREEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLOSIVES, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS, NIMBUS STAR OPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO02449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0392
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740426/aaaaaxaw.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CINCNAVEUR O 201246Z APR 74 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EAID, BEXP, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005